

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A
PARTIAL DUAL-ENCRYPTED STREAM
IN A CONDITIONAL ACCESS OVERLAY SYSTEM**

5

Abstract of the Invention

The present invention is directed towards providing a partial dual-encrypted stream in a conditional access overlay system. The headend equipment includes an aligner, identifier, and remapper (AIR) device (615) that receives a clear stream and one or two encrypted streams,
10 where the two encrypted streams have been encrypted by two different encryption schemes. The AIR device (615) identifies critical packets associated with the clear stream and subsequently allows two encrypted streams to pass and drops the critical packets of the clear stream. A multiplexer (640) then combines a percentage of the non-critical packets of the clear stream and the critical packets of the two encrypted streams to provide the partial dual-encrypted stream.

15